

# AAP gameplan: Kejriwal to camp in city till polling day

DIPANKAR GHOSE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1



INDICATING a renewed focus on the party's fortunes in Delhi, Aam Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal has decided to station himself in the national capital until April 10, the date when the city votes. This despite the fact that parts of western Uttar Pradesh and all the parliamentary seats in Haryana go to polls on April 10. While party leaders admitted that nationally, Kejriwal was their biggest crowdpuller, they said the decision for Kejriwal to campaign in Delhi in the run-up to the elections was made to "consolidate the support in Delhi".

Exactly a month ago, Kejriwal had set out on his national campaign with a three-day roadshow through Uttar Pradesh, aimed at gauging the mood outside Delhi, which culminated in a rally in Kanpur where the stage for a clash against Narendra Modi was first set. In March, there were forays into Haryana, as well as visits to Gujarat, eastern Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Leaders from the AAP, however, said that with their impressive 28-seat haul in the Delhi Assembly elections largely due to Kejriwal's projection as chief minister, the need was felt for him to stay in Delhi. "Delhi is clearly where we are strongest. While we have gone national in a big way, we are most likely to win seats in Delhi, where we have built our presence over the past year and a half," a party leader said.

Despite perceived gains from the AAP's 49 days in power in Delhi, party leaders admitted that the need was felt for Kejriwal himself to campaign extensively in Delhi. "While we are confident of competing in all the seats, and winning several seats, the other parties

**AAP leaders said with the party's impressive 28-seat haul in the Delhi Assembly elections largely due to Kejriwal's projection as CM, the need was felt for him to consolidate in Delhi**

ties will also be more aware of our threat. Kejriwal, as Delhi's former Chief Minister, is our biggest crowdpuller and people come to listen to him," a party leader said.

While Kejriwal began his round of campaigning in Chandni Chowk on Monday, Tuesday saw him campaign for AAP candidate in West Delhi for Jarnail Singh. "He will campaign in all seven parliamentary constituencies, attending jansabhas and holding roadshows. The plan is that he will stay in Delhi till April 10 when the city goes to polls and then visit Punjab, after which he will go to Varanasi and spend most of his time there. A week will be set aside for a visit to Amethi as well," a leader said.

# On Sunday, Rahul returns to ground where few people turned up last time



Rahul Gandhi addresses a rally at Ambedkar Nagar before the Assembly elections last year.

ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

CONGRESS vice-president Rahul Gandhi's first rally in the capital, scheduled to be held on April 6, isn't merely about the Lok Sabha elections.

Apart from the usual objectives of garnering support, making electoral promises and boosting morale, this rally at Ambedkar Nagar is more about 'a matter of pride' for the Congress party.

For, it is going to be held at the same venue, where prior to the

Delhi Assembly elections, poor turnout had left the party fumbling for 'explanations' on a chilly Sunday.

With people steadily streaming out of the venue, former chief minister Sheila Dikshit had been forced to plead with the crowd to "at least listen to Rahulji before leaving".

Rahul, that day, had spoken for less than seven minutes. The less-than-enthusiastic response had, in many ways, been the first bleak prophecy for the Congress's humbling defeat in Delhi.

It is learnt that the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) wrote to the All India Congress Committee (AICC), stressing upon the need for a rally at the same venue this time around.

Delhi Congress chief Arvinder Singh Lovely said the reason for the choice of venue was "to further consolidate people's faith in the Congress" and that this time, nothing could go wrong.

"It will be a historic event and preparations are underway," he said, before adding that the rising mercury could discourage crowds.

But the main task for the Delhi Congress unit still remains ensuring a good turnout.

Senior Congress leaders admitted that the standards have been set by the BJP's prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi's rally in Seelampur last week.

Keeping this in mind, the Delhi unit has been, over the past one month, been absorbing candidates — both independent and belonging to other parties — into its fold in a bid to accumulate support.

"More than 20 people belonging to different parties have joined

the Congress, to fight against communal forces. The additional support they will bring to the rally will make a difference," a senior Congress leader said.

The choice of venue is also critical in their bid to consolidate their traditional votebank.

"Ambedkar Nagar has large Dalit settlements, Muslim pockets, slums and unauthorised colonies," Lovely said — a stark reminder about the work at hand, considering that the Congress lost the Assembly segment here for the first time in 20 years last December.

## People angry with Cong, AAP: Lekhi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

LEADER of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Arun Jaitley on Tuesday praised Meenakshi Lekhi, party candidate from the New Delhi parliamentary constituency, for her hard work and popularity among party workers. "She has done a great job as a party spokesperson. Even the people who she has not interacted with supported her

nomination," he said.

Jaitley was speaking at a meeting here, which was attended by former Delhi Mayor Arti Mehra, Lekhi and party workers.

Jaitley said the BJP candidates contesting the Lok Sabha elections were "leaders of the future", who represented all sections of society.

Jaitley urged all workers to ensure people-to-people contact. "A candidate cannot visit

every home, it is the responsibility of the workers," he said, adding that direct contact with voters was very important.

Lekhi, in her speech, highlighted the "anger of the people of Delhi" against the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party.

She said urban development, poverty alleviation, rehabilitation of people living in slums and women's safety were the main issues in the upcoming elections.



Jaitley and Lekhi at a meeting on Tuesday.

PREM NATH PANDEY

## NOTICE BOARD

### EDUCATION

CELEBRATIONS, EVENTS, HONOURS

#### WORKSHOP (IP UNIV)

University School of Basic and Applied Science (US-BAS), IP University, recently organised a workshop on M3 Mathematical Modeling with Mathematica. J P Dange, Chairman, Maharashtra Finance Commission, Mumbai, delivered the key note address. H L Attri, former Director, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Govt of India, gave a presentation on mathematical models to save endangered species. Prof A K Narula, Dean, USBAS, Dr Rashmi Bhardwaj, convener of the programme, and around two dozen experts from different parts of the country, expressed their views on the subject. The Vice-Chancellor of the university, Prof Anup Singh Beniwal gave presidential remarks on the occasion.



#### LECTURE (SAU)

Renowned author of International Relations & South Asian Studies Prof SD Muni addressed the gathering at the annual lecture series of Faculty of Social Sciences, South Asian University titled "Re-imagining South Asia: An Intellectual Agenda for the Next Generation of South Asians" at IIC. Prof Muni said South Asia must have its own purpose and perspective, while reimagining the region, so as to remain rooted to the hard reality of the region. He painted four images of South Asia — co-existing economic dynamism and diffidence, surging democratic aspirations, fading conflicts and insurgencies and growing intra-regional comfort levels preparing to cope with the anxieties of global developments.



#### CONFERENCE (AMITY)

Amity Institute of Rehabilitation Sciences, with the support of RCI, organised a conference on "Right to Education Act 2009- Possibilities and Challenges for the Inclusion of Children With Special Needs". Prof Sudesh Mukhopadhyay, Chairperson, RCI inaugurated the Conference.



#### MoU (AMITY)

Amity University said an MoU with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to promote scientific education and research for the benefit of agriculture.

The MoU was signed by Arvind Kumar, Deputy Director General (Education), ICAR, and B L Arya, Registrar, Amity University Uttar Pradesh, in the presence of Dr S Ayyappa, Director General, ICAR & Secretary, DARE; Arvind Kaushal, Secretary, ICAR; P K Pujari, Addl Secretary, ICAR, Dr B Meenakumar, DDG, Fisheries, Dr Ashok K Chauhan, Founder President, Amity Group, Atul Chauhan, Chancellor, Amity University at Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.



#### SEMINAR (IP UNIVERSITY)

University School of Environment Management (USEM), IP University, organised a two-day seminar on Natural Resources Conservation. It was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor of the university, Prof Anup Singh Beniwal. The chief guest was former DG, Forest, Anupam Mukherjee. The key note address on the subject was delivered by Prof P S Ramakrishnan of Jawahar Lal Nehru University. The welcome address was delivered by Dean, USEM, Prof Prodyut Bhattacharya. Around three-dozen experts on the subject from across the country shared their views on the subject. A poster session was also organised on the occasion.



#### LECTURE (JMI)

The Dr K R Narayan Centre for Dalit & Minorities Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, organised the 7th Dr K R Narayan Lecture on 'The Uses of Otherness: Accumulation and Social Divisions in India'.

The lecture was delivered by Prof Jayati Ghosh, who teaches at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru Studies, New Delhi. Prof Jayati Ghosh emphasised the need of a broad-based strategy of development and pointed out that the youth of the society are less tolerant of prevailing inequalities. Hence, there exist possibilities of positive change. The programme was chaired by Prof S M Sajid, Vice-Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia.



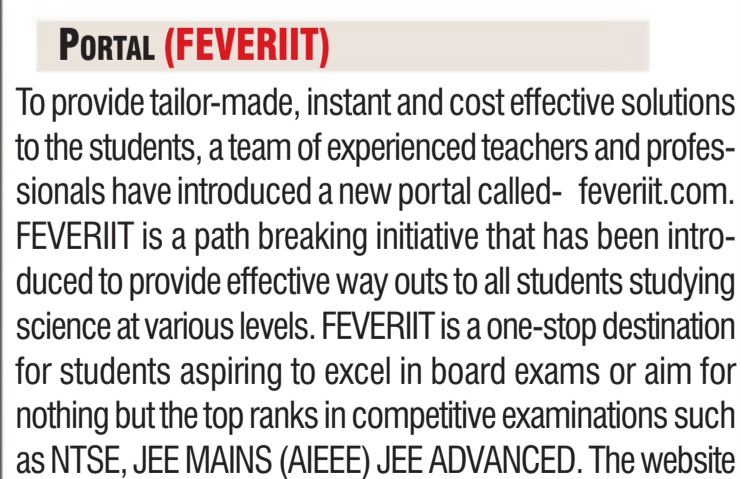
#### MDP (IMS)

IMS Ghaziabad, in association with the Chamber of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, organised an MDP on Customer Centric Strategies in Indian Retail Sector. The MDP was conceived and designed under the guidance of chief patron, Rakesh Chharia, Management Trustee, IMS Ghaziabad and Patron, Dr Urvashi Makkar, Director IMS Ghaziabad. The Conveners were Prof Vijendra Dhyani and Dr Vijay Kumar Pandey. The MDP aimed at providing participants the necessary tools and learning opportunities to shoulder higher responsibilities in organizations. To make the program more interactive, optimum combination of simulation exercises, case studies, management games, knowledge sharing by Industry Experts was done.



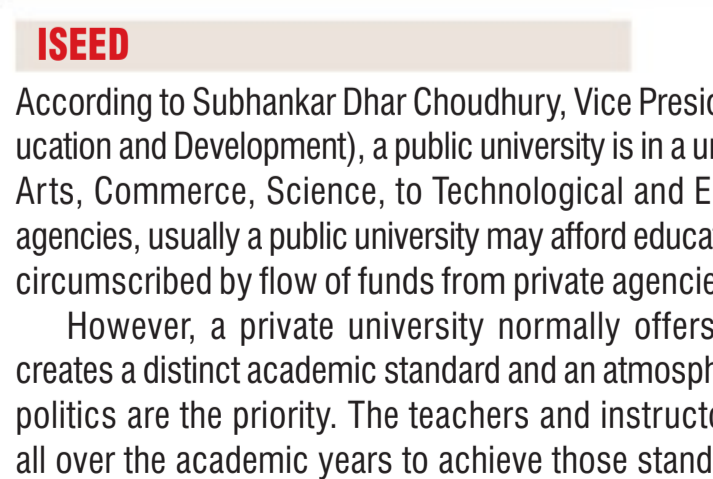
#### AWARDS (IGNOU)

IGNOU recently won the Horticulture Awards in the Delhi-Agri-Horti Society Flower exhibition, held at IARI, Pusa, New Delhi. IGNOU won 71 trophies in the categories of public garden (large and small), garden attached to a Govt institution (large and small), building veranda, corridor, vegetable garden and various categories of vegetables and flowering pots. Prof M Aslam, IGNOU, V-C, appreciated and lauded the achievements of the Cell.



#### PORTAL (FEVERIIT)

To provide tailor-made, instant and cost effective solutions to the students, a team of experienced teachers and professionals have introduced a new portal called- feveriit.com. FEVERIIT is a path breaking initiative that has been introduced to provide effective ways out to all students studying science at various levels. FEVERIIT is a one-stop destination for students aspiring to excel in board exams or aim for nothing but the top ranks in competitive examinations such as NTSE, JEE MAINS (AIEEE) JEE ADVANCED. The website also helps Indian and foreign students appearing for SAT exams and other university entrances happening at the undergraduate level in any country of the world. The best part of the new initiative is that the content is simply accessible at a price that is easy on pocket. Pooja Varma, CAO said, "We are excited to introduce FEVERIIT which is the first digital platform for all science/IT students. Our prime motto is 'students are paramount' and we help them providing the best education at a price, which is so low, that anyone can enroll from his/her pocket money."



#### ISEED

According to Subhankar Dhar Choudhury, Vice President, ISEED (International School of Entrepreneurship Education and Development), a public university is in a unique position to offer a number of courses of studies from Arts, Commerce, Science, to Technological and Engineering facilities. Since funds come through public agencies, usually a public university may afford education in different subjects while a private university is largely circumscribed by flow of funds from private agencies. However, a private university normally offers specialised courses of studies and each university creates a distinct academic standard and an atmosphere of its own. In a private university the students and not politics are the priority. The teachers and instructors set high standards and keep the students jumping all over the academic years to achieve those standards. Consequently, the students in a private university are more involved in academic pursuit as compared to the large heterogeneous group of students in a public university. It is no less important that a private university being compact and homogeneous in nature can shift gear easily and introduce market oriented courses of studies which often help students in making their career. A private university often creates an environment which is conducive to achieve academic excellence. The close knit community of students in a private university gets the benefit of smaller classes and individual attention by professors because the professor-student ratio is smaller as compared to a public university where the number of students in a class is large. Another advantage is that top notch professors and professionals tend to flock to a private university in preference over a Public University. This phenomenon is now a day's noticeable even in India where well known names in education are found in a private university.

### POLL SNIPPETS

#### Maken shown black flags in Kathputli Colony



AJAY MAKEN, Congress candidate from the New Delhi Lok Sabha constituency, was shown black flags by residents of Kathputli Colony on Tuesday. "We did not let him enter the area and showed him black flags. If he wanted, he could have stopped our jhuggis from being sold to private developers," Dilip Bhatt, a pradhan at Kathputli Colony, said.

Several residents of the colony are against the Delhi Development Authority's in-situ redevelopment scheme for the area. Under the scheme, slum dwellers will be shifted to a transit camp and moved back into flats to be built in place of the shanties.

#### BSP's West Delhi candidate joins Congress

ALLEGING that the BSP was banking on its candidates to finance meetings and campaigns of Mayawati in Delhi instead of using party funds, Raj Pal Singh, who had been declared the BSP candidate from West Delhi, has quit the party and joined the Congress. With him, 1,700 workers, too, have quit the party to join the Congress, including the sitting MCD councillor from Palam and her husband. BSP city president CP Singh, however, said he was not aware of the development even as AICC general secretary in-charge of Delhi Shakeel Ahmed confirmed that Singh had joined the Congress. Singh, who was with the BSP for 29 years, left the party on March 30.

#### Sukhbir Singh Badal to visit West Delhi on April 5



SAD leader and Punjab Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal will spend a day in the West Delhi Lok Sabha constituency on April 5. According to senior BJP leader V K Malhotra, Badal will tour areas with a large Sikh population like Tilak Nagar and Hari Nagar. "He will hold public meetings from 2pm to 8pm in West Delhi and, on April 7, will share the stage with BJP's PM candidate Narendra Modi," he said.

ENS